



Georgia On My Mind

Monthly Newsletter of the ARRL Georgia Section

June 2025



Field Day!

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Every June, more than 31,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

We welcome the public to come learn more about ham radio! Use our [Field Day Locator](#) to search for a Field Day site near you.

Upcoming Events

5/31-6/15 - Lewis & Clark Trail on the Air
<https://lctota.org/event>

6/28-29 - ARRL Field Day

7/1-7 - 13 Colonies Special Event

7/4 - Peachtree Road Race

7/12 - Georgia Games, White, GA
<https://georgiagames.org/>



Georgia on My Mind is a monthly newsletter of the ARRL, Georgia Section, highlighting the activities of Amateur Radio Operators and Clubs within the State.

To submit pictures, articles, or notices, please email the editor Karen Spradlin, K4LJS, at GeorgiaSectionARRL@gmail.com

To see previous issues of **Georgia on My Mind**:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rbZFGg9k5JO45dYC4lvQNgB-6TqyO-S?usp=sharing>

Dalton ARC

Red Clay State Historic Park, Cleveland, TN
North Fulton ARC

Groveland Community Park, Roswell
Athens Radio Club

Colbert in Red Canna Park, Athens
Cherokee County ARS - Taylorsville, GA
Coastal ARS - Airport Rec Building, Savannah

Random Lessons from 43 Years of Field Days

Caution: Strong personal opinions ahead

Going to Field Day is the best ham radio decision you will ever make!

The most dangerous place to be is between the Field Day site and the parking lot at 1800z on Sunday afternoon. Teardown starts at 1800z so it is the really committed (and tired) that hang around to help teardown. This one is only half-joking...

You should rarely get to operate your own station. This is about elmering. The best Field Days are when you have new people that you help operate your radio or an adjacent station.

FD is a collective event. It is not 3 club members that bring their radios, man them around the clock and don't let anyone else operate. Sure you can go out by yourself because you hate people, but you are really missing out on what Field Day can be.

If you are afraid someone might break your radio, leave it at home. Field Day is a place the new people that may not be experienced on HF get to press the buttons and twiddle the dials on different radios. Your Icom 7851 does not belong at Field Day. Your radio will get dusty, there will be BBQ sauce on the display and it may need some cleaning when you are done. This is Field Day after all and things happen. Leave your prized possessions at home and bring your backup rig—but at least the one with good filters.

“Take my ball and go home” has no place at Field Day. If you lend your radio, antenna, generator, etc, it's in it for the duration. If you get mad, go home and come back at 1830z on Sunday to get your stuff.

Field Day is an emergency preparedness exercise. That is until after you make the first contact. If your goal is to test if you can setup in a field with portable antennas simulating a hurricane scenario, that first contact proves you can do it. But what are you going to do, tear it all down after one contact? As for the rest of the weekend, well you are already there with all the antennas and radios. You have all that food. You might as well operate the whole time and make it a contest. There is no reason it cannot be both an exercise and a contest.

Someone will transmit on the same band on which another radio is receiving. It will happen. There are ways to prevent this (such as assigning radios to bands) but refer back to the item that all radios are shared resources used by whomever happens to be operating 20m at the time. Your job is to train them to operate and hand them the mic. Hang around to help answer questions but let them drive.

If you don't plan out your antenna layout, the 20m CW station antenna will be too close to the 20m SSB station antenna. Interference is no fun but solving it is part of Field Day.

Mosquitoes suck!

Cigar smoke chases away mosquitoes. Find someone in the club that likes a good Fuente and sit by them. Just no Swisher Sweets—they stink.

It will rain. Plan accordingly.

If you do not reserve a year in advance, one of your kids will have the nerve to pick the fourth Saturday in June for a wedding.

You will learn things about what you can do under less than ideal circumstances. FD brings out the MacGyver in every ham. Solve some issue with the coax. Make a new coax choke when the BALUN fails. Twist wires together when the connectors come off the power supply wire.

Field Day is not a clean room. Perfect is the enemy of Field Day. Perfectionism has no place at FD. Save perfect for your shack at home. Yes, 100 feet of LMR400 technically has less loss than 100 feet of RG-8X, but at Field Day, we just don't care. 89 watts out of 100 is better than having to drive home for the roll of LMR400 to put 93 watts to the antenna.

If you have booze, someone will get drunk. You have to deal with the consequences.

Sitting on a run frequency calling CQ and working stations for an hour straight is just magic. You will never have an operating experience like running from a well-equipped FD station (meaning a good antenna).

The newspaper or TV station reporter you invited will arrive at Sunday morning right in the middle of your aforementioned QSO run.

Coherence and CW signals make good B-roll.

The bonus points will only materialize if you designate someone as the Bonus Point captain. Their job is to make sure someone gets all the bonus points. Did the satellite station make a contact AND give you the log?

Everyone at the site should know to whom to refer the reporters when they arrive.

Did someone copy the W1AW bulletin? Exactly who is doing it and do they know to bring you the text?

Does a specific person have the solar charged bat-

Club News

tery to make the alternate power contacts?

Is there a sign-up book?

Does everyone know they should direct new people to the check-in table?

FM Transponders (essentially really high repeaters) for the satellite contact are challenging to say the least. You will not get into the repeater with 1000 users. Use a linear satellite with SSB or CW.

The more complicated the satellite antenna system, the less likely you will make a contact. The Az/EI rotator with the dual beams on an H-Frame is cool, but an Arrow antenna or eggbeaters will do just fine.

In Florida—and the rest of the South—it will be unbearably warm and muggy. At 8000 feet in the mountains of Utah, you will need a coat and gloves as it will be freezing at night—yes, after attending Florida Field Days for years, I laughed when they told me to bring a coat and gloves at my first Utah ARC Field Day in the mountains above Payson, Utah.

You are going to have to talk to strangers. Field Day is about emergency preparedness (and contesting) but it is mostly a very public display of amateur radio. If you see someone new, get up and talk to them. Invite them to the check-in table; ask if they are a ham; do they want to operate? If they are new, give them a brochure for the club. If you are not all that outgoing, make sure there is always someone that can answer questions. Be inviting and open to new people. Field Day is not the time for cliques.

The generator will run out of gas at the worst possible time.

The camaraderie you will experience is unique to Field Day. Field Day is a way for us to work together for a common goal. We all share a love of radio. Field Day allows us to hone our own skills, help others better their skills and test our endurance under less than ideal conditions. We all love to talk about the emergency aspects of ham radio when we need it for things like the Amateur Radio Parity Act, but you cannot say you are an emergency communicator if you cannot pull off Field Day.

Field Day will test you, it will make you sweat but it will give you much in return.

Going to Field Day is the best ham radio best decision you will ever make!

By Tom Schaeffer, NY4I

Athens Radio Club

6/3

Swap Meet 2025 is in the books.

I want to thank everyone that was able to make the swap meet last night.

Thru the equipment donations and everyone's help the club was able to get the equipment to someone who will use and added to the club's funding for special events and upkeep of our repeaters.

Had a great time seeing and talking with everyone!

Phillip Campbell, W4PHC



April 26-27

The Athens Radio Club, in conjunction with the UGA Amateur Radio Club held the 4rd Annual **N1D** Special Event Station. This year we will be operating from between the Tate Student Center and the UGA Bookstore, in the shadow of Sanford Stadium.



Club News

Cherokee Amateur Radio Society

The CARS club in Woodstock has been very busy and continues to grow. We now have 133 members and typically see 50 or more attending the monthly meetings.

The club had a spectacular showing for the Georgia Park on the air event in April. The CARS club, operating as WX4CAR, came in first place with a total score of 2431 points. Chad Cone (KY4KP) the club Vice President accepted the award a simple ceremony on May 3rd at Carter's Lake State Park. Thank you to Claude Ray (AC4SH) for organizing the event and recognizing our club.

Amateur Radio is a hands-on hobby The CARS club strongly feels that amateur radio is incomplete without hands-on activities. One the main ways people can learn more about this great hobby is by making things that enhance their knowledge radio and electronics.

On May 3rd the CARS club held an antenna workshop. We had two separate groups of people building two different antennas. Group 1 had ordered the EFHW antenna made by HFKits. This is a great antenna for new hams getting started with HF bands. The assemble was overseen by Stan Ham (WB9GFA) who is an accomplished ham and DIY antenna maker.

The second group built a version of the Tape Measure Yagi antenna. This group of 11 members assembled and tested these antennas using a nanoVNA and a Field Strength Meter. Martin Buehring (KB4MG) led this workshop and presented some materials that explain how this antenna works and how you would test it. This was a big success with all 11 antennas working. Michael Haggerty (KG4FXS) shows off his completed antenna, which he later used at his home QTH to work the repeaters. Our future plans will include another workshop if the Fall with a new project. Members are really interested in learning more and having projects that facilitate this learning.

The Field Day 2025 plans are progressing. We will again operate at 5A GA from a farm in Taylorsville, GA. Last year we had participation by 70 people and hope to have at least that many this year. We will have a GOTA station as well as workshops on DMR and nanoVNA. If you want to visit a great Field Day site, look us up on the Field Day Finder on ARRL.org.

Henry County Amateur Radio Society has received their ARRL Club Affiliation!

ARES - Waco

I would like to thank everyone who was able to make it out yesterday for our training/testing exercise yesterday afternoon. We were able to set up a portable battery powered mock EOC station next to the Sandersville Fire Department and subsequently tested both repeater operation and simplex operation from the two planned county Shelter Locations (Kaolin Park Rec Center and Ridge Road Elementary Gym). We were able to maintain communication in a simulated repeater down situation. We successfully communicated on both 2 meter and 440 mhz simplex frequencies between the mock EOC and both shelter locations, as well as, between the two shelter locations. Not only was this successful in operation, but was accomplished using HT handhelds, not just mobile radios on battery power. We accomplished all three goals for this exercise in 1, testing equipment, 2, testing simplex operations for a repeater down scenario, and 3, gaining experience logging communications on our ICS 309 Communications Log Form.

We had 6 participants yesterday, which is almost our entire ARES group. I am very grateful to have a group so willing to sacrifice some of their week-end time to help our county be prepared for the worst. This speaks very highly of our local Amateur Radio community, which is a small group to start, that so many would participate. For those whose health and work prevented you from participating, we appreciate your support and willingness to assist when you can and/or from your home location. This is something we will work to incorporate into future training/testing days such as the simplex net we discussed at the last meeting.

Thanks again for everyone's support, help, suggestions, and participation. We truly have a great group of people!

David Johnson
KF4ALH
WACO ARES EC

Awards



3rd Annual Georgia State Parks on the Air April 5-6 2025 Top scores by category

Activator - Single Op Single Park - QRP

- 1st – Greg Mann WC4Y (204 pts)
- 2nd – Teri Beard KO4WFP (156 pts)
- 3rd – Rebecca Key KO4KVG (60 pts)

Activator - Single Op Single Park - Low Power

- 1st – Max Astor N4TRD (1481 pts)
- 2nd – Robert Burton KD4YDC (1006 pts)
- 3rd – Colin Cameron KO4IZK (922 pts)

Activator - Single Op Multi Park - QRP

- 1st – Moe Rajayki KO4GBB (3825 pts)
- 2nd - Claude Ray AC4SH (2228 pts)
- 3rd - Jess Hickey N4J - N4JAH (1880 pts)

Activator - Single Op Multi Park - Low Power

- 1st TIE- Jamey Kent K4JDK (10280 pts)
- 1st TIE - Steve Whittington AD4XT (10280 pts)
- 3rd TIE - Chandra Burnette KD4BVG (3186 pts)
- 3rd TIE – Todd Burnette KC4TVZ (3186 pts)

Activator - Clubs

- 1st - Cherokee ARS - WX4CAR (2431 pts)
- 2nd - Chattooga ARC – W4G (583 pts)
- 3rd – Middle Georgia ARS – W4R (497 pts)

Hunter - In-State

- 1st – Dan Muntz WD4DAN (3628 pts)
- 2nd – Michael Branchfield KB0NVR (1588 pts)
- 3rd – Richard Turk KC4YMT (826 pts)

Hunter - Out-of-State

- 1st – John Carr K8NIV (2165 pts)
- 2nd – Renee Martinez W1INE (1970 pts)
- 3rd – Jeff Guidry AC5O (1606 pts)

Category: School Club - Middle/Intermed/JR High - W/VE

Call Used	School/Club	QTH	Score	Rank
N4SMS	SCHOFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL HAM	SC	249,969	1
W4LMS	Rambler Radio Club	GA	200,353	2
K4DKW	Communion of Saints School ARC	OH	104,000	3
K0QIK	Fergus Falls Public Schools	MN	74,880	4
N4GCS	Gainesville M.S. Radio Club	GA	73,872	5

Rambler Radio Club received word this past month that we received 2nd Place in the nation in the Middle School / Junior High Spring School Club Roundup. Our students averaged more than 30 contacts per hour for the entire 24 hour contest week.

Rambler Radio Club took 5th in the entire field of 81 competing schools, including all Elementary and High Schools, behind Schofield Middle School and 3 Colleges and Universities.

(But we beat the likes of the University of Arkansas, Arizona State University, Baylor University, Case Western University, Cornell, Indiana University, Kansas State, LSU, New Mexico Tech, Northeastern University, Saint Louis University, San Jose State, Texas A&M, Virginia Tech, and the University of Wisconsin.)

Also, congratulations to our friends, the Red Elephants of **Gainesville Middle School in Gainesville GA (N4GCS)** for their 5th place in the Middle School / Junior High School Division.

Congratulations to Hope Lea, ND2L, and Ruth Willet, KM4LAO for their winning paper at SpaceOps 2025 this week!

Hope presented the paper in Montreal while Ruth worked on her PhD Quals. That's some STEM brainpower and teamwork!



Dots, Dashes & Tidbits

Georgia Section Nets

ARES Phone & Digital Nets

Conducted on Sundays

unless there is a declared emergency

Note: GA ARES Net information can be found at gaares.org – Select Nets & Frequencies

Georgia Section ARES Net:

Section Net Manager: Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ

kn4qj@arrl.net

Sundays @ 2200 UTC on 3975 KHz.

Net control operator: Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ

Alt. net control operator: Jim Altman, W4UCK

Alt. net control operator: Frank Dean - K4SJR

Georgia Section ARES Digital Nets:

Section Digital Net Manager & Asst. Section Traffic

Manager - Don Jones, K4GO k4go@arrl.net

Digital Team Leaders also serve as net control operators.

Winlink Net Manager: Russell Prevost, AB4QQ

Sun. 0001-2100 Send checkins to GAARES-Net

Net control operator: Hank Blackwood, K4HYJ

Net control operator: Mark Bell, N7GRB

Net control operator: David Blubaugh, ND1J

Net control operator: Brian Freeman, KN4DLT

Net control operator: Bill Hall, K9HRO

Winlink P2P Net Manager: David Blubaugh, ND1J

Net control operator: Kory Oldham, W4RZ

Net control operator: Murdock Gragg, W4JNR

Net control operator: Ricky Bramlett, NG4DX

Net control operator: Russell Prevost, AB4QQ

Sun. 0800-1400 Send checkins to GAARES-P2P

PSK & Traffic Nets Net Manager Kory Oldham, W4RZ

Traffic Sun. @ 2100 UTC -PSK125 every odd month

Net control operator: Richard Austin, W4BYT

Net control operator: David Blubaugh, ND1J

Net control operator: Bob Garza, K4TLG

Net control operator: Don Jones, K4GO

Net control operator: Ken Wallis, KM4HOS

DStar Net 3rd Monday of month, 2030 on REF3A

National Traffic System (NTS) Nets

CW Nets

Georgia State Net (GSN): Medium speed CW

Net Manager, John Laney - K4BAI Alt.

Daily at 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm on 3549 KHz.

Georgia Training Net (GTN): Slow speed CW

Net Manager, Jerry Brunet - WE4GA

Daily at 9:00 pm 3549 KHz.

Phone Nets

Georgia Cracker Net:

Net Manager, John Collette - AF4XZ

Daily at 0700 Mon-Sat, 0800 Sun. on 3995 KHz.

Georgia Single Sideband Association Net:

Net Manager, Terry Cantrell - W4WTC

Nightly at 2300 UTC on 3975 KHz.

web address: gssaradio.net

Georgia Traffic and Emergency Net (GTEN):

This net has been merged with the GA SSB Assoc net, held every night (see above).

VEs - If you, or your club, offers testing, please forward the positive results of your session, so that the new (or upgraded) hams may receive recognition on this page.

GeorgiaSectionARRL @ gmail.com